

of themselves. Poverty was the explanation of this custom in all civilized countries, although there was always in it an element of frolic and fun.

580. Night wooing in North American colonies. All the emigrants to North America were familiar with the custom. In the seventeenth century, in the colonies, the houses were small, poorly warmed, and inconvenient, allowing little privacy. No doubt this is the reason why the custom took new life in the colonies.

Burnaby¹ says that it was the custom amongst the lower classes of Massachusetts that a pair who contemplated marriage spent the night together in bed partly dressed. If they did not like each other they might not marry, unless the woman became pregnant.

The custom was called "tarrying." It was due to poverty again.

Modern inhabitants of tenement houses are constrained in their customs by the same limitation, and the effect is seen in their folkways. The custom of bundling had a wide range of variety.

Two people sitting side by side might cover themselves with the same robe, or lie on the bed together for warmth.

Peters² defended the custom, which, he said, "prevails amongst all

classes to the great honor of the country, its religion, and ladies."⁷¹

The older women resented the attempts of the ministers to

preach against the custom. Sofas were introduced as an alternative.

The country people thought the sofa less proper. In

the middle of the eighteenth century the decline in social man-

ners, which was attributed to the wars, caused the custom to

produce more evil results.³ Also the greater wealth, larger

houses, and better social arrangements changed the conditions

and there was less need for the custom. It fell under social dis-

approval and was thrown out of the folkways.
Stiles⁴ says that
"it died hard" after the revolution. In 1788 a
ballad in an
almanac brought the custom into popular ridicule.
Stiles quotes
the case of Seger vs. Slingerland, in which the
judge, in a case
of seduction, held that parents who allowed
bundling, although
it was the custom, could not recover.⁵

¹ *Travels in the Middle Settlements of N. Amer.* (1759-1760), 144.

² *Hist. of Connecticut* 325.

⁸ Stiles, *Bundling*, So.

⁴ *Bundling*, 75.

⁵ Stiles, *Bundling*, **112**.